



**PROMOTING THE HIGHEST STANDARDS FOR
MEDICAL LICENSURE AND PRACTICE**



Protecting
Advocating
Serving

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State Medical Board Appropriate Use of Telemedicine

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The Need for License Portability

- **Environment of medicine rapidly changing**
 - *Rise of telemedicine and technology*
 - *More physicians practicing in multiple states*
 - *Passage of Affordable Care Act and need for greater access to care*
- **Portability of medical licenses critical and must be facilitated**
- **Goal: Enhance portability, while ensuring medical quality and patient protection**

FSMB License Portability Activity

- **FSMB has long been a proponent for enhanced portability of licenses**
 - *Nearly two decades of action*
- **Update of Telemedicine standards and the Interstate Compact are latest step in FSMB's efforts**
- **Major Initiatives**
 - *FSMB License Portability Project (w/ HRSA)*
 - *Uniform Application (UA)*
 - *Federation Credentials Verification Service (FCVS)*



SMART Workgroup

- **State Medical Boards' Appropriate Regulation of Telemedicine**
- **Charge: Guide the development of model guidelines for use by SMBs in evaluating the appropriateness of care as related to the use of telemedicine**
 - Review “Model Guidelines for the Appropriate Use of the Internet in Medical Practice” (HOD 2002)
 - Review recent advances in technology
 - Comprehensive literature review

Model Policy for the Appropriate Use of Telemedicine Technologies in the Practice of Medicine

- **Goals:**
 - Remote encounter should be as similar to a face to face encounter as possible
 - Creation of workable standards of physician accountability
- **Timeline**
 - August 2013 Conference
 - Sept 2013- Jan 2014: Revision of Guidelines
 - April 2014: Adopted by HOD

Model Policy Guidelines

- **Patient-Physician relationship established upon agreement for diagnosis**
 - Some situations & patient presentations are appropriate for the utilization of telemedicine technologies and other will not be
- **Physician discouraged from care without**
 - Verifying patient identity and location
 - Disclosing credentials and identity
 - Obtaining consents from patient

Model Policy Guidelines

- **Licensure**
 - Physician licensed in state where patient is located
 - Practice of medicine in state where patient is located
- **Evaluation and Treatment**
 - Physician must collect relevant clinical history
 - Treatment held to same standards as face to face
- **Prescribing**
 - Held to same standards as other treatments
 - Sole use of online questionnaire not acceptable

Model Policy Guidelines

- **Informed Consent**
 - Identification of individuals and technologies
 - Types of transmissions permitted
 - Patient agreement as to the discretion of the physician to determine whether or not the condition is appropriate for a telemedicine encounter
- **Continuity of Care**
 - Patient access to follow up care or information from the provider of telemedicine services

Model Policy Guidelines

- **Referral for emergency services**
 - Written protocol appropriate to services rendered
- **Records**
 - Encourage easily transferrable records
 - Should include copies of all communications and consents
 - Kept consistent with all laws and regulations

Questions/Discussion/Contact Us

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